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REMARKS

Applicant thanks the examiner for her comments and the recent office action. Also, applicant thanks the examiner for her thoughtful attention to this application at the personal interview held on May 9, 2007 in the examiner's office.

Claims 1-3, 5, and 7 are currently pending in the application. Claims 4, 6 and 8 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Currently, all of the claims are under rejection. In the Office Action, the rejection of the claims 1-8 was maintained for anticipation under 102(b) as to US 4,944,529 ("Backhaus").

Applicant traverses this rejection, as provided below.

In the Office Action, it is stated that Backhaus discloses a pair of superposed quadrilateral and substantially congruent impact absorbing members. "Congruent" means "coinciding on all points when superimposed". *Websters New Universal Unabridged Dictionary* (1996). In column 2, lines 25-50, Backhaus describes quadrilateral web members that are congruent (i.e. superimposable).

Figures 7 and 13 show how the two superimposable members of Backhaus are joined at their three identical sides.

The current invention is directed to an entirely different geometrical configuration as compared to that of Backhaus. The current invention, as claimed, is directed to a first fabric blank having an exterior perimeter of substantially rectangular shape, with straight sides. Further, the second fabric blank has at least one a centrally located slit. The airbag cushion is joined by the seam of the entire exterior perimeter of the first fabric blank with the exterior periphery of the second blank to form the closed first end, and the centrally located slit forms a mouth opening for the insertion of an inflation device into the mouth at the second end.

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The geometry of the airbag cushion of the present invention is not the same as that of Backhaus. First, the two blanks of this invention are not congruent, and are not superimposable. That is, the blanks of this invention are not superimposable, and are of substantially different size and configuration relative to each other (See Figure 1 of the present invention). Further, the second blank of this invention comprises a centrally located slit or opening, and in the final seamed airbag device this slit forms the second end of the airbag. There is no such configuration disclosed in Backhaus.

There is no teaching or reason to believe that a person of skill in the art would modify Backhaus (and thereby abandon the Backhaus teachings of superimposable congruency) to re-design Backhaus into the configuration of applicant's invention. Any suggestion that such activity is obvious would merely be "hindsight" reconstruction of applicant's invention, and *would likely only occur to those who had read applicant's specification, reviewed applicant's Figures, and studied applicant's invention!*

To sustain a rejection under Section 102(b), all of the elements must be disclosed in a single prior art reference, and the elements must be arranged as required by the claim. There is no such teaching of the claimed invention by Backhaus. Therefore, it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn, and the claims be advanced to allowance.

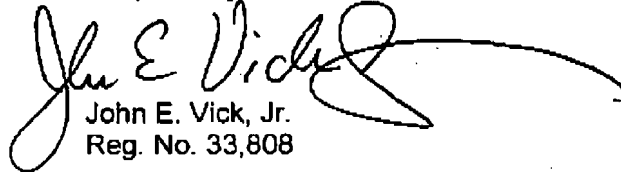
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CONCLUSION

The claims are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is requested. Should the Examiner find that any issues remain outstanding following consideration of this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve the issue.

Fees: Any fees necessary for full consideration of this Amendment may be deducted from applicant's account no. 04-0500.

Respectfully submitted,



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